

Memo

To: Board of Managers
From: Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations *MY*
CC: Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager
Date: 6/4/13
Re: Update on Capital and Infrastructure Upgrade Projects

Below please find an update on the various capital and infrastructure upgrade projects currently in-process and in the planning stage:

Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) Pedestrian Signal Request:

- Last week the Village received official correspondence from SHA, in response to our recent request for SHA to conduct a comprehensive study of the traffic operations along Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) as it enters the Chevy Chase Circle and in response to our pedestrian signal request.
- As expected SHA has denied our request. I have requested a copy of the comprehensive study, which I should receive within the next couple weeks.
- Copies of the letter have been sent to the Chair of the Village Traffic Committee as well as the following local elected officials who have been monitoring our efforts, County Councilmember Roger Berliner, District 18 Senator Richard Madaleno, District 18 Delegates Al Carr and Jeff Waldstreicher, Congressman Chris Van Hollen's office and the Governor's Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator Mollie Byron.
- The letter leaves several questions unanswered and has generated several others, namely, how SHA can state that signals in the circle would create safer flow for pedestrians and vehicles, while it appears that safety of pedestrians trying to cross Connecticut Avenue has not been factored in.
- SHA also appears to take the position in support of signalizing the Circle.
- The Village Manager and I have spoken with Ms. Baptiste regarding our next steps and we agree that a follow-up meeting with SHA officials, including SHA Administrator Melinda Peters and several of our local elected officials is warranted to discuss the letter and our concerns.

Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) Repaving (SHA):

- No updates since last month's report.

Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) Sidewalk Replacements:

- SHA contractors are on pace to complete work replacing the seven (4) remaining blocks of sidewalk on Connecticut Avenue this week.
- They include:
 - North bound:
 - Between Quincy Street and Bradley Lane
 - Between Oxford Street and Primrose Street
 - Between East Irving Street and East Melrose Street (3 blocks)
 - South bound:
 - Between West Lenox Street and West Kirke Street (outer sidewalk in front of the Village Hall)
 - Outer sidewalk between West Irving Street and the Chevy Chase Circle (the interior sidewalk has already been replaced)
- SHA's replacements have saved the Village approximately \$218,000 in replacement costs.

Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) Tree Planting:

- SHA legal staff has indicated that due to a backlog in reviewing other draft MOUs, the Village's tree planting MOU is still yet to be reviewed.
- The backlog can be attributed to State budget cuts that have increase number of private (non-State) agencies taking over maintenance or other activities the State would have traditionally done.
- SHA has assured me that our MOU will be released in time for the Village's fall 2013 planting cycle.

PEPCO:

- **Wiring/Infrastructure Upgrades:**
 - No updates since last month's report.
- **Street Light Upgrades:**
 - No updates since last month's report.

Village Sidewalk Replacements:

- Compliments Received: 0
- Complaints Received: 0

- Contractor crews have completed all sidewalk replacements for year 2.
- At the May regular meeting, Village staff provided an overview of the Village sidewalk replacement program, Board/Committee actions and list of the proposed sidewalks to be replaced in year 3.
- Under the Old Business section of the June meeting, the Board will be asked to take action on the year 3 schedule as proposed or amended at the meeting.

Washington Gas:

- **Gas Main Replacements:**

- Last Monday evening, representatives from Washington Gas and WSSC held a public meeting to discuss the upcoming gas and water main replacement projects scheduled for Grafton and Hesketh Streets.
- The meeting was attended by 23 residents.
- Work is scheduled to begin the last week of June on Grafton Street (starting at Wisconsin Avenue).
- Work is expected to last four (4) to five (5) months and will be coordinated with WSSC's water main replacements in the area.
- The gas mains on Grafton and Hesketh Streets were installed in the 1920's.

Wisconsin Avenue Sidewalk (SHA):

- No updates since last month's report.

WSSC:

- **Water Main Replacements/Relocations:**

- Phase #2 of WSSC's water main project is under way; crews are currently installing new water mains on Center Street, Cedar Parkway and Kirkside Drive.
- In conjunction with Washington Gas, WSSC held a public meeting last Monday evening to review its plans for the final phase of water main replacements.
- Construction is scheduled to begin in late July.
- WSSC will begin its work on Hesketh Street, while Washington Gas is on Grafton Street.

- **Sewer Main Rehabilitation:**

- **Connecticut Avenue:**
 - WSSC contractors are scheduled to begin replacing a portion of the sewer main located under Connecticut Avenue, between Kirke and Lenox Streets beginning the evening of Sunday, June 16.

- The main is located in the middle of the south bound lanes on Connecticut Avenue resulting in the closure of all south bound lanes during construction.
- Due to the road closure, SHA has restricted work to the hours between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Construction is expected to be completed within two (2) weeks.
- During the night work, north and south bound lanes of Connecticut Avenue will share the north bound lanes in the work zone.
- All required project equipment will be stored along the north end of the Newlands Street crescent during daytime hours.
- The main will be replaced using non-invasive means, however the manholes at each intersection will be replaced and set level with the road surface.
- Notice about the night work has been sent to the surrounding homes outlining what is to be expected.

○ **Interior to the Village:**

- WSSC is completing its pre-job video survey of the sewer mains and services before it submits its final work plan for the Village.
- As a result of this work, some Village streets will be impacted, including a small portion of Cedar Parkway (just recently paved). In order to ensure that all affected roadways are restored, the Village and WSSC will enter into a restoration agreement.
- Under New Business, I will request that the Board authorize the Village Manager to enter into a restoration agreement with WSSC for this sewer rehabilitation work. Since WSSC is required to begin its work within a short time after the pre-job video surveys are completed (before the July Board meeting), Board authorization is sought, contingent upon wording in the restoration agreement being in line with the Village's previous agreements with WSSC.
- WSSC is also investigating the need to fully replace the sewer main that runs through Laurel Park. This work is not part of WSSC's initial work plan and will be part of a separate restoration agreement.